

2005

LOCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Aid for Towns in the 20th Senate District

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 20th state Senate District is ensuring East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Waterford receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$44,770,608
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$940,305
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$4,615,103
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$840,944
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$8,322,890
Totals	\$59,489,850

This funding represents an increase of \$1,961,344 over last year's total

A New Role That Will Benefit Our Community

The safety and well-being of residents of Southeastern Connecticut is an important priority. I'm pleased to report that I will be better able to represent our part of the state as the newly appointed Senate leader of the General Assembly's Public Safety and Security Committee. The Public Safety Committee has jurisdiction over homeland security as well as issues related to police and fire safety.

National Security Begins at Home

The New London Submarine base was removed from the proposed list of base closures. Earlier this year, the General Assembly voted to provide \$10 million for infrastructure and harbor improvements. This additional investment was one part of a collaborative and comprehensive effort led by the local Submarine Base Realignment Coalition. The decision helps to ensure that Southeastern Connecticut will continue to be the national submarine capital.

Emergency Preparedness

Southeastern Connecticut residents will benefit from final approval of state funding for improvements at New London's Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. The funding is part of a \$1.35 million statewide investment in emergency preparedness and will finance physical plant modifications and renovations to enable the isolation of patients in the case of an infectious disease incident. I'm pleased to report this state funding for the hospital we all rely upon in the New London area—it should help

Lawrence & Memorial do what's necessary to deliver quality care to residents.

I was joined by U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Crane, Lt. Mutto and CWO Cashman when I hosted an exhibit at the Capitol about maritime first responders during 9/11.



a message
to my
constituents


Dear Neighbor,

Recent events have served to remind us how important government can be to the lives of people. As we help our fellow Americans in the South continue to put their lives back together following the catastrophic aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it has become clear that the lasting legacy of these storms will be an understanding that government is more than a mere bureaucracy. All of us, but elected officials especially, must aspire to create effective programs that promote mutual responsibility and serve people in times of need.

Tragedies don't always come just as a result of Mother Nature. Too many small businesses are forced into bankruptcy because of high health insurance costs. Too many seniors struggle to afford ever-increasing prescription costs and often go without. Too many schools are overburdened by increasing numbers of students. These concerns will continue to be priorities of mine, and as a state official, I will do my best to ensure that residents are prepared to face these troubles if they occur.

I have prepared this mailing to inform you of some improvements we have already enacted and to ask for your help in setting our priorities for the future. I hope that you and your family enjoy the coming holiday season.

Sincerely,


Andrea Stillman
State Senator, 20th District

State Senator

Andrea Stillman

Legislative Office Building, Room 3600, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 1-800-842-1420

E-mail Stillman@senatedems.ct.gov

Web www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html

I'm proud
to represent the
20th state
Senate District
which includes
the communities
of East Lyme,
Montville,
New London,
Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook,
Salem and
Waterford

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What do you think?

I am already hard at work preparing for the next legislative session that begins in February. As part of this effort, I have included this short survey on three important issues likely to face the General Assembly. This survey will allow me to quickly register residents' priorities and learn if a broad consensus exists in our district. This survey is also available for you to fill out on my Web page (see address below). You are always welcome to write me with more detailed responses or thoughts on these and other issues.

Local school systems are struggling to fund new requirements imposed by the federal No Child Left Behind law. What should our state do to address the unfunded No Child Left Behind mandate?

- ☐ Sue the federal government for more funding and more flexibility
- ☐ Leave local school districts to decide how to cover the unfunded costs
- ☐ Raise taxes to help local districts pay for its costs
- ☐ Cut other governmental programs to increase funding for its implementation

We acted to address the state's recent budget shortfall and, as a result, it is possible our state will end this fiscal year with a surplus. If our state realizes a surplus in the coming fiscal year (FY06), what would you suggest we do?

- ☐ Spend more on education
- ☐ Make health insurance affordable for more residents
- ☐ Put surplus in state's Rainy Day Fund
- ☐ Provide more local property tax relief
- ☐ Provide emergency assistance to residents for home heating costs

Below are some of the pressing issues facing the General Assembly. Please rank from 1 to 3 the three issues you feel are most important:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ No Child Left Behind requirements | ___ Open space preservation |
| ___ Healthcare and insurance | ___ Jobs and the economy |
| ___ Transportation | ___ Crime and criminal justice |
| ___ Campaign finance reform | ___ Childhood obesity |
| ___ Gasoline prices | ___ Property tax relief |

Please trim off the survey portion of this newsletter, fold it in thirds, staple or tape it closed, and affix a 37¢ stamp before mailing back to me. This survey is also online at www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html (click on the survey link). Many thanks in advance for taking the time to share your opinions.

State Senator Andrea Stillman
Room 3600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PLACE
37¢
STAMP
HERE



SENATOR ANDREA STILLMAN

CONTINUING TO WORK FOR CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE



Connecticut Clean Diesel Plan

The General Assembly passed new legislation requiring the state Department of Environmental Protection to develop a diesel emissions reduction strategy for the state. The DEP will make recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 15, aimed at reducing diesel emissions and diesel particulate. With recommendations in hand, the legislature will be better equipped to take action to improve air quality in our state.

A Higher Minimum Wage

Connecticut is certainly a desirable place to live and, as a result, a costly place to live. We recognize our state's high cost of living and commit ourselves each year to help our state's working families. This year we passed legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$7.40/hour in 2006 and \$7.65/hour in 2007. This will help many people statewide keep pace with inflation and be more active participants in Connecticut's economy.

Breast Cancer Screening

Screening and early detection of breast cancer have a major impact on treatment of the disease. Most women are aware they should get a mammogram annually if they are 40 years of age or older. However, for some women with dense breast tissue, mammograms are not the most effective screening tool. Ultrasound screening can be a more effective and efficient screening technique for these women. This session legislation passed requiring certain insurance companies to provide coverage for ultrasound screening for certain classified women when recommended by a physician.

Energy Assistance

With record energy prices expected this winter, it may be very difficult for individuals to pay their home heating bills. The government funds energy assistance programs available to those residents to help protect them from the cold. The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) provides assistance to low-income households to help with heating costs. Contact the Department of Social Services at 1-800-842-1132 for more information.

Honoring Those Who Serve: Military Assistance Package

The legislature passed a Military Assistance Package this year that will create, expand and extend more benefits to our state veterans. This package includes: death benefits for surviving family members of Connecticut-based active duty servicemen and servicewomen; a toll-free phone number for veterans to call about benefits to which they may be entitled; a Military Family Relief Fund to help military families who are struggling while a loved one is away; and a small stipend to families of deployed members of the National Guard.

Requiring Consumer Credit Bureaus to Offer Security Freezes

With identity theft on the rise, it is important that greater protection be afforded to consumers. As a result of legislation that we passed this year, consumers are now allowed to freeze their credit reports in order to guard against potential fraudulent access and tampering. Once a credit report is frozen, a credit rating agency is prohibited from releasing it without the consumer's authorization. The legislation also requires businesses to inform consumers if there has been a security breach involving their personal information.

Supporting Stem Cell Research

Medical innovations are changing the way we approach health and sickness. New cutting-edge research has the potential to discover treatments and cures for debilitating diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's disease, certain cancers and multiple sclerosis. This remarkable research involves the use of embryonic stem cells. This session, the legislature took action to place strict limits on stem cell research conducted in our state—and to ban human cloning—while sending the message that Connecticut supports research that is conducted ethically and professionally. Moreover, we will invest \$100 million over 10 years in this research in an attempt to attract research scientists to our state. This legislation and commitment can bring new, high-level jobs to our state, and—most importantly—the research conducted could save lives.



Representative Betsy Ritter and I joined Arbor Day essay award winner Sharon Lalonde from Waterford at a tree planting ceremony at the State Capitol.

I was pleased to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Niantic Bay Overlook at the Hole in the Wall Beach in Niantic this past July.

